

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:WPKELLY:MJK

APPROVED BY EUR/IB - MR. LUKENS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON PORTUGAL

REF.: (A) LISBON 1270 (B) LISBON 1221

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRUCE LAINGEN WILL TESTIFY IN OPEN HEARING 10:00 A.M. MARCH 14 BEFORE HFAC SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS. SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IS DANTE FASCELL OF FLORIDA.

2. FOCUS OF TESTIMONY WILL BE CURRENT POLITICAL SCENE IN PORTUGAL, ITS LIKELY DIRECTION, AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR GENERAL INTERESTS, INCLUDING THAT OF NATO. SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF UNDERSTANDS THAT AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY DORMANT AND APPRECIATES OUR VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE NEITHER USEFUL NOR APPROPRIATE TO FOCUS TESTIMONY ON THIS AREA. IF QUESTIONS ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS ARISE, WE PLAN TO RESPOND IN GENERAL TERMS WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT, SHOULD COMMITTEE WISH TO CONSIDER SUBJECT IN DETAIL, WE ARE PREPARED TO DO SO AT LATER DATE BY SUBMITTING STATEMENT ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

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3. EMBASSY'S EXCELLENT REPORTING ON CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE USED TO ADVANTAGE (ALBEIT IN SANITIZED FORM) IN THIS TESTIMONY. LATEST INDICATIONS

(REFTELS) IN INCREASING POWER AND COHESIVENESS OF THE MILITARY MODERATES OBVIOUSLY OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE AND, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY LAST MINUTE INFORMATION THIS POINT WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE. INGERSOLL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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